

## Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /011 R

66607

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:SWWORREL

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:RMWRIGHT

----- 047216

P 241908Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC

USSAG PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 168950

EXDIS

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE FROM BANGKOK ON AUG 24, RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE

S E C R E T BANGKOK 13277

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJECT: FORCE REDUCTION TALKS: ACTION QUERIES

DEPT PASS CINCPAC AND USSAG FOR GENERAL VOGT

REF: A. STATE 161191 B. BANGKOK 13197 C. BANGKOK 13107

1. AUGUST 24 NEGOTIATIONS EXTENDED ALMOST FIVE HOURS, INCLUDING ONE HOUR PRELIMINARY WARMUP SESSION WITH LEADER OF THAI DELEGATION LTGEN KRAINGSAK, DURING WHICH HE PROVIDED US ADVANCE NOTICE OF POINTS ON HIS AGENDA AND EXPLAINED URGENCY OF REPORTING TO PRIME MINISTER AND RESPONDING TO INTEREST OF PRESS AND PUBLIC. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY; FOLLOWING ARE POINTS

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RAISED BY THAI SIDE ON WHICH GUIDANCE IS REQUIRED

URGENTLY.

2. DATE OF FIRST US WITHDRAWALS: MINDFUL THAT PRIMIN THANOM HAD ALREADY INDICATED TO PRESS THAT WITHDRAWALS WOULD START DURING AUGUST (REF C), THAI SIDE PRSSED FOR SIMILAR COMMITMENT IN JOINT STATEMENT TO PRESS. AS FALLBACK POSITION, THAIS REQUESTED SOME INDICATION OF TIMING NO LATER THAN TUESDAY AUGUST 28 FOR THANOM, USE IN REGULAR WEEKLY WEDNESDAY PRESS CONFERENCE. WE URGE AS RESPONSIVE A REPLY AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY CONFIRMATION THAT AT LEAST A TOKEN MOVEMENT WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE END OF MONTH.

3. DATE OF COMPLETION OF INTIAL WITHDRAWLA: THAIS ALSO REQUESTED INDICATION OF TIME FRAME DURING WHICH PRESENTLY AGREED WITHDRAWALS WILL BE COMPLETED. THIS APPEARS LESS URGENT REQUIREMENT IN THAI VIEW, AND THAIS RECOGNIZE THAT ORDERLY CLOSE OUT OF NAM PHONG IS IN PART DEPENDENT ON THAI ACCEPTANCE OF IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY AND SECURITY RESPONSIBILITY.

4. KC-135 WITHDRAWALS: THAIS INDICATED CONSIDERABLE UNEASINESS OVER FAILURE OF US SIDE TO INCLUDE KC1135 TANKERS IN FIRST TRANCHE, STATING THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN TO PRESS AND PUBLIC REQUIREMENT FOR RETENTION OF THESE AIRCRAFT FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF TACAIR SQUADRONS. WE URGE CONSIDERATION OF AT LEAST TOKEN WITHDRAWAL IN EARLY SUBSEQUENT TRANCHE.

5. B-52 WITHDRAWALS: MFA DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS MADE STRONG PLEA FOR EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT OF SOME REDUCTION IN THAI-BASED B-52'S. HE STATED THAT RTG UNDERSTANDS AND SHARES OUR VIEW REGARDING THE IMPORTANCE OF US AIR POWER AS A DETERRENT TO HANOI, BUT NOTED THAT RTG WAS CONTINUALLY CONDEMNED BY HANOI, PEKING AND OTHER ASIAN GOVERNMENTS FOR PROVIDING BASES TO THE UNITED STATES FROM WHICH B-52'S ARE LAUNCHED. IN HIS VIEW B-52'S HAD BECOME A SYMBOL, WHICH LIMITED THE RTG FREEDOM OF MANEUVER WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, WITH WHOM IT MUST LIVE IN THE FUTURE. ASIAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD CONSIDER US  
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WITHDRAWALS LIMITED TO TACAIR WERE A HOAX, UNLESS THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED BY REDUCTION OF SOME B-52 HEAVY BOMBERS STATIONED IN THAILAND. AFTER EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION THAI SIDE AGREED TO LIMIT MENTION OF B-52'S AND KC-135'S TO PHRASE REGARDING FUTURE REDUCTIONS INCLUDING STRATEGIC AIRCRAFT IN JOINT STATEMENT, BUT THAI SIDE CLEARLY EXPECTS INDICATION OF OUR THINKING AT SEPTEMBER 7 MEETING.

6. EXCESS AIRCRAFT AND EQUIPMENT: THAI SIDE MADE PRO  
FORMA REQUEST FOR INFORMATION WHETHER ANY US AIRCRAFT  
INCLUDED IN FIRST TRANCHE WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO RTG,  
BUT APPEARED TO ACCEPT ARGUMENT THAT ALL OF THESE TACTICAL  
AND SUPPORT AIRCRAFT WERE INTEGRAL TO THE UNITS BEING  
WITHDRAWN. HOWEVER, THIS PROVIDED OPENING FOR  
RAISING FOLLOWING WANT LIST: (COMMENTS SEPTTEL)  
A) OV-10 AIRCRAFT TO REPLACE AGING T-28'S.  
B) EC-47 TO CHECK NAVAIDS; WE EXPLAINED THAT EC-47  
CONFIGURATION WAS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR THIS LIMITED PURPOSE.  
C) HELICOPTERS FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE, EXPRESSING  
INTEREST IN CH-53 OR HH-53; WE ARGUED THAT THESE WERE  
EXCESSIVELY SOPHISTICATED, AND SUGGESTED POSSIBLE USE OF  
HH-43'S.  
D) TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT TO REPLACE C-47'S. WE NOTED  
THAT C-130 WAS TOO LARGE FOR THAI REQUIREMENTS. THAI COMPLAINED  
THAT C-123'S RECEIVED FROM US WERE VERY OLD IN IN POOR CONDIT-  
ION.  
E) HEAVY HELICOPTERS FOR RTAN SUCH AS CH-46.  
F) BASE DEFENSE EQUIPMENT FOR RTAF BASES, SUCH AS ARMORED CARS,  
COMMUNICATIONS GEAR, ETC.

7. EXTENDING THAI SECURITY GUARDS: KRIANGSAK ASSERTED  
THAT DURING ORIGINAL TALKS REGARDING THAI SECURITY GUARD  
REGIMENT, WE HAD AGREED (ALTHOUGH THERE  
WAS NO RECORD OF SUCH AGREEMENT) THAT WHEN REQUIREMENT  
ENDED US WOULD KEEP THE GUARDS ON THE PAYROLL FOR ONE  
YEAR. WE POINTED OUT THAT TERMS OF CONTRACT PROVIDED  
FOR 90 DAY NOTICE OF TERMINATION. ARGUING PROBLEM FOR  
RTG IN ASSISTING SECURITY PERSONNEL TO FIND NEW JOBS,  
KRIANGSAK REQUESTED AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE 180 DAY  
NOTICE. MAC THAI SAID IT WOULD LOOK INTO SITUATION BUT  
GAVE NO ENCOURAGEMENT.

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8. MAC COMMERCIAL CONTRACT CARRIERS: KRIANGSAK AGREED  
IN PRINCIPLE, DURING INTERVAL IN FORMAL TALKS, TO USE OF  
MAC COMMERCIAL CONTRACT CARRIERS OPERATING FROM OFF-SHORE  
DIRECT TO THAI BASES TO FACILITATE MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL  
WITHDRAWALS; WE UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE RTG THROUGH SUPREME  
HEADQUARTERS (FORWARD) ADVANCE SCHEDULES OF ALL MAC/CCC  
MOVEMENTS.

UNGER

UNQUOTE RUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY AIRCRAFT, TROOP REDUCTIONS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, NEGOTIATIONS, MUTUAL FORCE WITHDRAWALS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 AUG 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973STATE168950  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** O:SWWORREL  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** P750011-0404  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730815/aaaaakyq.tel  
**Line Count:** 164  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 73 STATE 16119, 73 BANGKOK 13197, 73 BANGKOK 13107  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05-Dec-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <01 MAR 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FORCE REDUCTION TALKS: ACTION QUERIES  
**TAGS:** MARR, TH, US  
**To:** CINCPAC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005